AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): An image sensing apparatus comprising:

a first exposure level calculation device which performs photometry for image sensing to calculate a first exposure level upon an image sensing preparation instruction by an image sensing preparation instruction member;

a second exposure level calculation device which calculates a second exposure level of an image signal output after image sensing;

an exposure error calculation device which calculates an exposure error between the first exposure level calculated by said first exposure level calculation device and the second exposure level calculated by said second exposure level calculation device;

a determination device which determines whether or not to correct the exposure error ~~on the basis of at least one of a setting state of the image sensing apparatus in image sensing, an operation state of the image sensing apparatus, and an object brightness state in image sensing, even if the image sensing apparatus is set to an auto exposure control mode~~ <u>in accordance with whether or not said image sensing apparatus satisfies a predetermined condition when said image sensing apparatus is in an auto exposure control mode</u>; and

an exposure error correction device which performs a correction operation of the exposure error by using the exposure error calculated by said exposure error calculation device, when it is determined by said determination device to correct the exposure error.

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Claim 2. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the setting state of the image sensing apparatus includes~~ <u>when said image sensing apparatus is in</u> at least one of a state in which an exposure correction value is set, a state in which an exposure condition obtained by photometry is held, a state in which a photometry method is set to spot photometry, ~~a state in which a manual exposure mode is set,~~ and a state in which a long shutter mode is set, ~~and when any one of the states is set,~~ said determination device determines not to correct the exposure error.

Claim 3. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the setting state of the image sensing apparatus includes a state in which a flash is so set as to emit light~~ <u>said determination device determines to correct the exposure error when said image sensing apparatus is set to a state in which a flash is so set as to emit light</u>, and

when the flash is so set as to emit light, said exposure error correction device changes a correction width of the exposure error in consideration of elements which cause an under exposure.

Claim 4. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

~~the operation state of the image sensing apparatus includes a state in which an image sensing processing start instruction is received from an image sensing start instruction member before an end of a first exposure level calculation processing by said first exposure level calculation device that starts upon reception of the image sensing preparation instruction by the image sensing preparation instruction member~~ <u>said determination device determines to correct the exposure error when said image sensing apparatus is in a state in which an image sensing processing start instruction is received from an image sensing start instruction member before an end of a first exposure level calculation processing by said first exposure level calculation device</u>

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that starts upon reception of the image sensing preparation instruction by the image sensing

preparation instruction member, and

when the image sensing processing start instruction is received before the end of the first

exposure level calculation processing by said first exposure level calculation device, an image is

sensed at an exposure value obtained during the first exposure level calculation processing, said

exposure error calculation device calculates the exposure error by using information in the first

exposure level calculation processing so as to obtain a sensed image at correct exposure, and said

exposure error correction device corrects the exposure error of the sensed image by using the

exposure error.

Claim 5. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the

image sensing processing start instruction is received before the end of the first exposure level

calculation processing by said first exposure level calculation device, and ~~the setting state of the~~

~~image sensing apparatus includes~~ said image sensing apparatus is in at least one of a state in

which an exposure correction value is set, a state in which an exposure condition obtained by

photometry is held, a state in which a photometry method is set to spot photometry, ~~a state in~~

~~which a manual exposure mode is set,~~ and a state in which a long shutter mode is set, exposure

starts after a correct exposure value is calculated at the end of the first exposure level calculation

processing by said first exposure level calculation device.

Claim 6. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when said

image sensing apparatus is in an operation state ~~of the image sensing apparatus~~ in which an

exposure state is held upon pressing the image sensing preparation instruction member, and

when a state in which an image sensing start instruction member is not pressed is held for not

less than a given threshold time after the image sensing preparation instruction member is pressed, said determination device determines not to correct the exposure error.

Claim 7. (currently amended): An image sensing method comprising:

a processing step of performing photometry for image sensing to calculate a first exposure level upon an image sensing preparation instruction by an image sensing preparation instruction member;

a processing step of calculating a second exposure level of an image signal output after image sensing;

a processing step of calculating an exposure error between the first exposure level calculated by said first exposure level calculation step and the second exposure level calculated by said second exposure level calculation step;

a processing step of determining whether or not to perform an exposure correction ~~on the basis of at least one of a setting state of the image sensing apparatus in image sensing, an operation state of the image sensing apparatus, and an object brightness state in image sensing, even if the image sensing apparatus is set to an auto exposure control mode~~ in accordance with whether or not an image sensing apparatus satisfies a predetermined condition when the image sensing apparatus is in an auto exposure control mode; and

a processing step of performing a correction operation of the exposure error by using the exposure error when a determination is made to perform the exposure correction.

Claim 8. (canceled).

Claim 9. (previously presented): A computer-readable recording medium, on which is stored a computer program comprising instructions for causing a computer to execute an image sensing method defined in claim 7.